Prelude to Ivan's War #1 April 19, 2021

In an apartment in the Ultraverse, the mastermind Lloyd Barnesworth has fallen out of his wheelchair and he has sent his robotic minions after Jason, Mason, and Keith. Keith gets his foot cut on a bladed robot and he gets separated from Jason and Mason. Jason and Mason are at their universe marble which is placed in the machine that alters and controls the continuity of the universe. Jason and Mason reset the universe to undo any of the things Lloyd Barnesworth had done. (See Jason and Mason Ultraverse which explains everything going on now.) Jason and Mason are separated from Keith and robot minions are piling in on Jason and Mason. Jason and Mason open a portal to their universe and they jump in the portal and it closes leaving Keith behind. Keith stays in a closet where he is somewhat safe from the vast swarm of Lloyd Barnesworth's robots. The SWAT Team of the Ultraverse kicks down the door to Lloyd Barnesworth's apartment and they pin Lloyd to the ground and they arrest him. They also use their weapons and they destroy the remaining robot minions in the apartment. Keith hears the sound of everything stops. Keith opens the door and he sees the apartment is in shambles. Keith goes to the marble of his home universe in the machine that controls the universe. Keith sees everything going on in the universe. He sees that everything has returned to normal. He sees Jason and Mason going about their everyday life as if nothing has happened. Keith said, "How could this have happened. One second, the universe is on the fringe of being ruled by evil oppressors and now it is back in peace. Keith looks down at his mansion and he sees it is perfectly intact. Keith said, "My mansion was destroyed and now it is back to normal." Keith sees the front door open and he sees himself walk out. He sees himself going about the things he would usually do. Keith said, "There's a copy of me. It seems that Jason and Mason restored the universe and they entered as they were doing that. They are back in their place but I did not go through the portal so, I am still here. I am stuck in this Ultraverse while an imposter of me is living my life."

Keith walks down the overly bright and sunny streets of the Ultraverse. Keith said, "If I am going to get the life I had back, I am going to have to do some research on this place." Keith goes to the library and he sees hundreds of thousands of shelves of books. There is a librarian that is an anthropomorphic blue macaw parrot sitting at the desk. The parrot said, "Can I help you with something?" Keith looks freaked out and he said, "You're a parrot?" The librarian said, "Of course I am. I come from a universe populated by what you would call, anthropomorphic creatures." Keith said, "You run this place?" The parrot said, "I am the official librarian of the Ultraverse library which is governed by the Ultraverse Monks. The name's Roswell." Keith said, "I am Keith." Roswell said, "Something tells me you are new to the Ultraverse." Keith said, "I was just stranded here from my universe. There is an impostor of me living my life. I need to know to get it back." Roswell said, "You have something better than that impostor of

yours. You are in the Ultraverse. Very few people from your universe get to go here. It is a very rare opportunity to be stranded here. I recommend joining the Ultraverse Monks. It is a great opportunity to fight and defend the Ultraverse from interuniversal threats. I heard there was recently some kind of conflict like that involving Lloyd Barnesworth taking control of a universe. I always knew there was something up with that fool. I recommend browsing through our section on interuniversal interactions. You can find the section, over there."

Keith looks through the section on interuniversal interactions. He comes across texts about people that came from universes contained in marbles and now inhabit the Ultraverse. Keith looks through the books and he raises an eyebrow when he sees there is a book that was written by, Dr. Gruzzard. Keith grabs the book and he opens it. He reads that Dr. Gruzzard (his father) has been doing business with the Ultraverse. Keith said, "My father has been to the Ultraverse?" Keith continues reading and he reads that Dr. Gruzzard has been married twice and lives a double life between his universe and the Ultraverse. He reads that Dr. Gruzzard uses his first-born son that he had with his first wife, Meredith to create gadgets and technology used to rule his universe and the Ultraverse. He made a fortune in the Ultraverse and he bought his own universe where he secretly got married again and had another son named, Clyde. Images in the book show Clyde living the decadent life. Keith reads more and he finds out that Dr. Gruzzards big world domination plan (see Jason and Mason 1) was really a plan to build a nexus between the Ultraverse and the universes so it would make it easier for him to rule all those. Keith begins to get sweaty and he drops the book. Keith said, "I can't read anything more." Roswell hovers and lands next to Keith. Roswell said, "Did you find what you are looking for?" Keith said, "I did and now I wish I didn't." Roswell looks at the book Keith was reading. Roswell said, "This is a book on that Dr. Gruzzard guy. He was really something years ago. I haven't heard from him in years. I heard he tried ruling his world and he got thwarted by someone." Keith said, "My father used me. He pitted me against Jason and Mason just so he can rule more than the world. He wanted to rule over several universes and even the Ultraverse. He used me as a pawn. My half-brother was the real prize to him. I didn't even know I had a half-brother." Roswell said, "There is something you can do about this. Join the Ultraverse Monks. You will learn a lot about the vast universes of the Ultraverse and you will serve justice. You will prevent injustices like this from happening. I am sure you will become a valuable member to them."

Keith walks down the street and he said, "All this time, my life was a lie. I wasted so many years of my life trying to prove I was the better one and it was all for nothing. I will make up for this." Keith goes to the main monastery located in the center of the main Ultraverse city. Keith enters the monastery and it looks like an ancient dojo. Monks go about their business dressed in robes. Keith meets up with the front and he enlists to be a monk. Keith ditches his iconic yellow sweater with an orange zig-zag

stripe with his white shirt and black tie for robes. Keith is given a traditional silver-bladed sword.

Keith is sent to training where he is given books and he reads them and takes tests on them. Keith is told to document things about his past life using parchment and quill pen and he has the documents filed in the monk datacenter which is just a large library filled with shelves of papers. Keith undergoes sword training to test his skills at wielding a sword. Keith is then called into the office of the Grand Master of the Monks, Master Feistar. Keith enters the office and Master Feistar said, “You’re the one they call, Keith?” Keith said, “I am.” Master Feistar said, “I understand you recently had a traumatizing experience involving finding out your life was a lie.” Keith said, “That’s correct.” Master Feistar said, “Your grades from the training are quite excellent. You are doing pretty well for a newcomer to the Ultraverse Monks.” Keith said, “I have nothing else to do. This is all I have now.” Feistar said, “I also understand that in the world you came from, you have the second highest known IQ.” Keith said, “That is also true.” Feistar said, “You must be pretty smart then. I have a special assignment for you. Your half brother Clyde has found how to create portals and access other universes in the Ultraverse. He has found a magic pencil that can create anything drawn into reality. Clyde has used it and he has invaded a rather peaceful universe that consists mostly of poorly drawn pencil characters. I need you to track down Clyde and put a stop to this invasion plan of his. This is your first official assignment.” Keith bows and he said, “Yes, master. I still have one thing to ask. I understand it is possible for us to travel into different universes using ancient magical techniques but I have not learned any of those yet. It would be difficult for me to track down Clyde without any of these skills.” Master Feistar said, “I am assigning you to a master monk to teach you such.” The office door opens and Master Augi enters. Feistar said, “This is master Augi. He came from a disturbing past just like you but he learned to put it aside and he became one of the greatest monks in the Ultraverse. He is an expert on going to different universes. He will train you on that.”

Keith and Augi go to a temple where the different universe marbles are all aligned. Keith looks through a book on going to the different universe. Keith said, “I have inferred that you monks don’t seem to be fond of modern technology.” Augi said, “We monks have been using the traditional means since we were first formed. We believe that the old ways are the best. Technology was designed to deceive us and then turn against us. At least that’s what our ancient texts teach us. I have been interested though in integrating new technology into the monk order.” Augi locates the universe. Augi said, “This red universe appears to be the center of Clyde’s operation. If we strike here we could bring Clyde to his knees.” Augi waves his arms around and he does a magic chant and a portal opens. Augi said, “Let’s go.” Augi grabs onto Keith’s arm and they jump into the portal.

Augi and Keith appear in a strange universe on some planet that closely resembles Mars. Keith said, “You’re sure Clyde is here?” Augi said, “That’s what the information I have is pointing to.” Augi and Keith walk around the place and they find a large palace. Augi said, “This must be the place but it is probably heavily guarded. Clyde has some of the most high-tech technology in the known Ultraverse. We will have to use our monk skills to sneak past this.” Keith said, “Clyde is a lot like me or at least, what I used to be. I know myself very well and I know people of that type very well. I have a better idea.” Keith reaches in his robe and he finds some inventions of his. Keith grabs a harpoon gun and he uses the targeting crosshair on it and he aims it for a ledge. Keith fires the harpoon gun and the hook on a wire grips to the side of the palace. Keith said, “Grab on.” Augi grabs onto Keith and they zip to the top of the tower. Augi and Keith look inside and they see Clyde sitting in a throne seat eating grapes and drinking ginger ale from a gold chalice. Augi said, “You figured Clyde would be in here. Your suspicions have proved to be correct. I can see why Feistar thinks highly of you.” Clyde spots Augi and Keith and he yells, “Intruders!” The sophisticated and heavily armored and armed minions target Augi and Keith in the window. They open fire on them. Augi and Keith move away from the window that gets destroyed. They find another window and they smash it and they jump in with their swords armed. Augi and Keith engage in combat against the robots and they mutilate the robots with their swords. Keith slashes down a robot and then he slashes down another. Augi slashes down a small swarm of the robots with a single slash of the sword. More robots pile in and they surround Keith. Keith looks around them and he sweats in fear. The robots begin to beat up Keith. Clyde laughs and he said, “Face it! You are horribly outnumbered.” Augi does another grand slash and he rescues Keith. Augi and Keith confront Clyde. Augi said, “This is over Clyde. You are under arrest by order of the Ultraverse Monks.” Clyde said, “You and what army? You have yourself and a new monk trainee. I can tell you are just a trainee because of how weak your fighting skills are. I have this pencil that can draw anything out of thin air. I can even draw a machine that creates portals into other universes. The only limit to this weapon is the limit of my mind. I don’t care that my father is in prison in some universe. Now the wealth is all mine.” Clyde draws out an intimidating buff minion and he sends him after Augi and Keith. Clyde draws out a portal generator and he jumps in.

Augi and Keith are left to fight Clyde’s new minion. He is strong. The minion said, “I always enjoy pounding down people that are far weaker than me.” He tries to pound at Augi and Keith but they roll out of the way. The minion takes out a pencil (the same kind of pencil that Clyde has) and he draws out giant machine guns on him. The minion said, “My master is the greatest. He gave me a pencil just like him that can make anything drawn appear in reality. With this, I can turn against my master and I can rule the Ultraverse. I am way more powerful than he is. It all begins by me

decimating you two." The minion charges up his weapons and he is ready to fire. Keith stands behind Augi. The guns on the minion get slashed off and the minion gets slashed in the face with a sword. Roswell is flying around the minion and he is slashing the minion's face with his sword. Roswell said, "I figured you guys would need help. Clyde's plan is crumbling for the worst. I will fly you guys to the portal point from where you arrived."

Grand Master Feistar sits back in his chair in his office and he reads newspapers from all over the Ultraverse and they provide coverage of Clyde's minion causing violent rampages throughout the streets. Several worlds in several universes are surrendering to Clyde's minion and this minion has been renamed to, Overlord. Keith and Augi enter Feistar's office. Feistar said, "This is a disaster. Clyde is taking over an underprivileged universe and now we have this monster that is ruling more universes than Clyde. Clyde was enough of a threat to begin with but now it is this thing. We cannot possibly take on the two of them. They both have those magic pencils that can make anything into matter. They are both unstoppable. I can send every monk in the Ultraverse after them and they would still get beaten. We need outside sources. We need people with uncanny intellect to defeat our foes." Keith remembers that Jason and Mason are still in their universe and there is a copy of Keith in his. Keith remembers that his old former self which now exists as a clone in his original universe would fight tooth and nail to be the greatest there is. He also remembers that it is possible for Keith to team up with Jason and Mason. Jason and Mason have saved the world on countless occasions. Keith said, "I have an idea."

Keith learns to create portals and he stands in front of the universe marble he is from and he creates a portal and he jumps in. He goes through all kinds of funky imagery and he ends up on a side-street in San Francisco where Mason and Keith were having another robot battle. The Keith from the universe runs down the street and he crashes into Ultraverse Keith. Keith gives Ultraverse Keith an odd look. Jason and Mason look at the two Keiths in awe. Ultraverse Keith said, "Your universe and several other universes in the Ultraverse are in grave danger and only you three can prevent this."

Ultraverse Keith sends Jason, Mason, and Keith on a mission to find Clyde and defeat him. Master Augi leads a team of monks and Keith and Roswell are members in this team of monks. Master Augi said, "Overlord is stationed in the C835T universe on a planet in Oort VI. Overlord is living up to his name by ruling over the people of that world and several others with an iron fist. Clyde was also a big problem but thanks to Keith recruiting additional help and support, we don't have to worry about Clyde now."

Worlds all over the Ultraverse are populated with people and creatures that have nothing due to Overlord. The people and creatures work on building statues and sculptures of Overlord. Overlord sits in his throne while people push a large wooden gear. One of the people pushing the gear said, “What’s the purpose of this?” Overlord said, “There is no purpose of this. This is just entertainment to me. I enjoy watching people do unnecessary work.” One of the servants said, “Overlord, the monks are back.” Overlord said, “I will deal with them myself.” The monks walk in a large group down the street and Overlord jumps in front of them and lands with a large thud. Augi said, “It is over, Overlord. Stand down and we can deal with this the easy way.” Overlord said, “I should not stand down for you. I am bigger than you and more powerful than you.” Augi draws out his sword and so do all the other monks. Overlord arms his cannons located around his body and he draws out two swords. The monks charge into Overlord and Overlord easily fights off the monks with little effort. Augi clashes swords with Overlord. Keith and Roswell are standing off to the side. Roswell said, “This is an impossible target. We monks are screwed.” Keith said, “I know there is a way to beat him.”

The monks are running around the city streets and they are retaliating from Overlord. Overlord uses the cannons on his body to blast at the monks. A monk hides in a building and the building gets blasted down. Overlord is carelessly blasting things down. Overlord accidentally blasts down a water tower and it falls and breaks and water pours down the street. The water becomes a puddle by the time it gets to Overlord and the water burns the bottom of his feet and it dissolves the bottom of his feet. Keith and Roswell see this and Keith said, “Of course. If you recall, Overlord was created by the magic pencil and creations of the magic pencil seem to dissolve in water. We need water.” Roswell said, “The fire station probably has some.” Roswell points to the fire department. Roswell and Keith cut down the door to the fire department and they find a fire truck. Keith uses his sword to break into the ignition and he starts up the fire truck. Keith drives down the street with it and Roswell gets into the hose turret at the top.

Keith drives to Overlord and Overlord stands victorious over the defeated monks. Overlord said, “There is no way you monks can beat me.” Keith drives the fire truck in front of Overlord and Overlord said, “What is this?” Overlord charges his cannons and he fires a blast at the fire truck just Roswell fires a blast of water. Keith jumps out of the truck and Roswell zips away just as the blast hits the fire truck and destroys it. Overlord gets drenched in a blast of water and his body partially dissolves and weakens. Roswell and Keith draw out their swords at Overlord. Keith said, “Now this is more fair of a fight.” Roswell and Keith duel Overlord. Roswell zips up and cuts off Overlord’s cannons. Keith cuts off the hands of Overlord. Keith said, “Who’s the greater one now?” Overlord uses his weak arms and he grabs Keith and Roswell. Overlord said, “I

will crush you two right here and right now." Keith said, "How?" Overlord said, "You know like…" Overlord tries to crush Keith and Roswell but nothing happens. Keith said, "You see. You are far too weak." Keith and Roswell jump out of Overlord's arms and they slash him up. Keith and Roswell go over to a bar and they get several glasses of different drinks and they pour them on Overlord and he dissolves completely.

Keith is in Grand Master Feistar's office. Feistar said, "Ah, Keith. I heard you did well out there. You saved the lives of countless monks and helped restore peace to all those worlds ruled by Overlord. I knew you would win. I will watch your career with great interest. The monks need you. This could be the beginning of a new era. Us monks have been living in the past for too long. We need someone new to bring us into a new age. I am quite interested in learning about this new technology you can offer us. I also heard the people you recruited to stop Clyde were also successful." Keith said, "Jason, Mason, and my doppelganger have defeated Clyde. He no longer has that magic pencil and he is being exiled in some underprivileged universe."